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Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-10 RSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

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FM USMISSION USUN NY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3864

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 1587
EO 11652 GDS
TAGS: PFOR, UN, US, WA
SUBJ: US AND UN COUNCIL FOR NAMIBIA

SUMMARY: USUN BELIEVES TIME IS RIPE FOR US TO DISCUSS WITH SCANS AND UK POSSIBILITY FOR US JOINING AT SAME TIME COUNCIL FOR NAMIBIA. END SUMMARY

1. PROGRESS BY UN AND INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY IN IMPLEMENTING 1966 ICJ ADVISORY OPINION ON NANIBIA, WHICH WAS PUBLICLY SUPPORTED BY SECRETARY OF STATE ROGERS, HAS BEEN DISAPPOINTING. DESPITE US SUPPORT FOR ICJ ADVISORY IPINION, ABSENCE OF ANY WESTERN PRESENCE ON COUNCIL FOR NAMIBIA FOR ALL PRACTICAL PURPOSES HAS CONTRIBUTED TO RENDERING COUNCIL INEFFECTIVE.
2. WE RECOGNIZE THAT EARLIER COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS ON NAMIBIA CONTAINED EXTREMIST PROPOSALS FOR ARMED ENTRY INTO THAT TERRITORY. FURTHER, PRESENCE OF VITRIOLIC AMB OGBU (NIGERIA) AS COUNCIL CHAIRMAN, AND CONCURRENT ABSENCE OF PERSONALITY OF INTERNATIONAL STATURE AS COMMISSIONER FOR NAMIBIA TENDED, RIGHTFULLY SO, TO DIMINISH US INTEREST. SITUATION, HOWEVER, HAS SINCE EVOLVED CONSIDERABLY. DE FACTO, COUNCIL MEMBERS HAVE COME TO RECOGNIZE THAT SUGGESTIONS ADVANCED BY EARLIER RHETORIC ARE IMOPERABLE IN PRACTICE. OGBU HAS BEEN REPLACED BY PRAGMATIC RASHLEIGH JACKSON (GUYANA). AND THIRDLY, SEAM MACBRIDE LENDS IMPORTANT DEGREE OF RESPECTABILITY AND REALISM TO OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER.
3. AT SAME TIME, HOWEVER, US INVESTORS IN NAMIBIA ARE COMING
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UNDER INCREASINGLY HEAVY FIRE. ADVOCATES OF VIOLENCE FIND

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THEIR RANKS SWELLING AS RESULT OF FRUSTRATIONS IN DEALING WITH PRETORIA. ALL THIS OCCURS AGAINST A BACKGROUND OF THE SC'S BREAK IN SYG "CONTACTS, " AND WE FORESEE EVEN FURTHER PRESSURE OPPOSING A PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF THE PROBLEM. WERE US TO SUCCEED IN ENCOURAGING SCANS AND/OR UK TO JOIN COUNCIL, WITH PROMISE OF OUR JOINING AT SAME TIME OURSELVES, ATTENTION BY RESPONSIBLE PARTIES AGAIN COULD TRUN TOWARD POSSIBILITY OF A NEGOTIATED SOLUTION,
4. CURRENT SITUATION IS SUCH AS TO MAKE IT ADVISABLE ON MORAL AND PRACTICAL GROUNDS TO AFFILIATE OURSELVES WITH COUNCIL. CONTINUING AS US DOES TO ESPOUSE PEACEFUL NEGOTIATION IN SOLVING THE QUESTION OF NAMIBIA, WE SHOULD INDICATE OUR WILLINGNESS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE UN ORGAN WHOSE PRINCIPAL PURPOSE IS TO IMPLEMENT JUST THAT. FURTHER, OUR PRIVATE EXPRESSION OF WILLINGNESS TO AFFILIATE OURSELVES WITH COUNCIL MIGHT WELL ENCOURAGE SCANS AND UK TO JOIN. SHOULD SCANS (AND/OR UK) AGREE, WE COULD "APPLY" FOR MEMBERSHIP TOGETHER. IN OUR VIEW, THIS ACTION CLEARLY COULD ASSIST THE CAUSE OF REASON.
5. NOT LEAST OF ALL, US POLICY CONCERNING PORTUGUESE AFRICA WILL LIKELY COME UNDER HEAVY ATTACK AT 29TH GA, PARTICULARLY IF WE VETO GUINEA (BISSAU) MEMBERSHIP. POSITION OF WILSON GOVERNMENT MAY SERVE TO ISOLATE US FURTHER ON CERTAIN OTHER SOUTHERN AFRICAN PROBLEMS. AFRICAN DISTASTE FOR OUR PERFORMANCE ON QUESTIONS CLOSEST TO THEIR HEARTS CAN BE EXPECTED TO RESULT IN THEIR DEFIANCE ON MATTERS CLOSEST TO US, E.G. CAMBODIA, KOREA, INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS, UN FINANCIAL QUESTIONS, ETC. US MEMBERSHIP ON COUNCIL FOR NAMIBIA, WHICH HAS BEEN APPEALED FOR BY MACBRIDE AND JACKSON COULD HELP, IN LARGE MEASURE, TO IMPROVE US IMAGE, GAIN AFRICAN SUPPORT ON AFRICAN AND OTHER UN ISSUES AND, CONCEIVABLY, ASSIST IN ARRIVING AT LONG-RANGE SOLUTION IN NAMIBIA -- WITH LITTLE IF ANY TANGIBLE FALLOUT FOR US ON NEGATIVE SIDE. SAG DOUBTLESS WOULD BE UNHAPPY ABOUT SUCH MOVE BY US SHOULD WE, SCANS AND /OR UK AGREE TO JOIN. WE WOULD EXPECT COST TO US BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH SOUTH AFRICA WOULD NOT BE GREAT, HOWEVER, SHOULD WE EXPLAIN TO SAG, BEFORE MAKING OUR DECISION PUBLIC, THAT WE ARE DOING SO BECAUSE WE DON NOT WISH TO ABANDON THE FIELD OF PROPONENTS OF VIOLENCE, BUT DESIRE INSTEAD TO SUPPORT RESPONSIBLE EFFORTS WHICH NOW SEEM MORE POSSIBLE THEN IN PAST.
6. RECOMMENDATION: THAT DEPT FAVORABLY CONSIDER MISSION'S
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PROPOSAL THAT USUN BE AUTHORIZED TO DISCUSS PRIVATELY WITH SCANS AND UK POSSIBILITY OF TOGETHER JOINING COUNCIL FOR NAMIBIA IN NEAR FUTURE.
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